

[Report No. 174.]

FEBRUARY 25, 1845.

Read, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Mr. THOS. SMITH, from the Committee of Claims, reported the following bill :

A BILL

For the relief of the heirs of Joseph Gerard.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 Reese A. P. Gerard, William Gerard, and Rachael Blue, (for-
4 merly Rachael Gerard,) the only children and heirs of Joseph
5 Gerard, a messenger of the United States to the Indians, who
6 was killed in seventeen hundred and ninety-two, be, and they
7 are hereby, permitted to enter, each one of them, one section
8 of the public lands, without the payment of any consideration
9 for said three sections, according to the public surveys hitherto
10 made in the States of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois; said
11 three sections of land being in full payment for the patriotic ser-
12 vices of said Joseph Gerard, and in accordance with the spirit of
13 the inducements authorized by President Washington to be held
14 out to such persons as would consent to carry a message from
15 Fort Washington, (now Cincinnati,) in seventeen hundred and
16 ninety-two, to the hostile Indians of the then northwest territory.